Dr. Forster describes the patient as "talkative, busy and pleasnt," but convinced that "he has a mission to correct everything in the world." Leading the doctor, Inspector Dunlop asks whether "from the disease from which he is suffering, he might in endeavouring to spread his advice take particular spite on any particular person?" The Inspector seemed to want to take the line that the patient would have resented anyone who seemed to interfere with his "mission," and moreover would have had occasion to vent his resentment in performing that mission.

Dr. Forster pursued a different tack: the patient was "very accessible to a slight" and the Attendant's perceived interferance would inevitably have been exaggerated into a "great grievance." The Inspector's "version" would at least have allowed the patient a degree of rationality -- it was rational to resent interference if you believed you really were about to save the world. Dr. Forster's version is a wholesale dismissal. Dr. Clare's observation, that the man's wife felt she had noticed something the matter with her husband about five years ago, seems part of general tendency to date soldiers' mental disorders to a time before the war.

The Inspector notes that Chief Attendant John Carson gave Nelson "a good name," and that the Head Nurse, Miss Dodds, felt that he was "one of the best, if not the best" man she had ever had. He concludes that the patient was "a case for pity rather than for investigation." The patient's own letters, in which he had not made any harsh criticism of the institution, were used against him.[cxx]

The report of the first annual meeting of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene in Toronto on May 27, 1919 contains news of the "shocking facts" of the prevalence of insanity in the respectable contexts of "the family, the school, and the shop" (173) as well as at Clarke's clinic. Colonel Thomas W. Salmon, as Medical Director of the U.S. National Committee for Mental Hygiene, argues that because war and civilian neuroses are "identical in their mechanism," the study of the former will also benefit civilian life. Neuroses are essentially the attempt of the individual to adapt biologically, at the expense of "the individual ... and society" and of "social and economic efficiency" (172).[cxxi] He proceeds to urge maintaining something like the vigorous wartime campaign against the neuroses even in peacetime. In his polemics the war becomes yet another gauge -- the latest and perhaps the